Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-47   (cancelled)

48.   (original) A method of preserving data about a document that has been received in electronic form, the method comprising:

(a) encoding data about the document in a monochrome medium by:

(a1) converting the document to a rasterized image in which each pixel is assigned a raster value;

(a2) for each pixel:

(a2a) assigning a data word having a first bit depth, said data word comprising a first data field and a second data field;

(a2b) encoding a first component of said raster value into said first data field;

(a2c) encoding a second data value into said second data field;

(a2d) generating a grayscale data value comprising said first data field and said second data field; and,

(a2e) forming, onto the monochrome medium, a grayscale pixel conditioned by said grayscale data value;

(b) responding to a request for said first component of said raster value for each said grayscale pixel, by:

(b1) scanning said grayscale pixel to obtain a monochrome density value having a second bit depth;

(b2) decomposing said monochrome density value to obtain said first data field; and

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(b3) decoding said first data field to obtain said first component of said raster value.

49.   (original) The method of claim 48 wherein said first bit depth is larger than said second bit depth.

50.   (original) A method of preserving data about a document that has been received in electronic form, the method comprising:

(a) encoding data about the document in a monochrome medium by:

(a1) converting the document to a rasterized image in which each pixel is assigned a raster value;

(a2) for each pixel:

(a2a) assigning a data word having a first bit depth, said data word comprising a first data field and a second data field;

(a2b) encoding a first component of said raster value into said first data field;

(a2c) encoding a second data value into said second data field;

(a2d) generating a grayscale data value comprising said first data field and said second data field; and,

(a2e) forming, onto the monochrome medium, a grayscale pixel conditioned by said grayscale data value;

(b) responding to a request for said second data value for each said grayscale pixel, by:

(b1) scanning said grayscale pixel to obtain a monochrome density value having a second bit depth;

(b2) decomposing said monochrome density value to obtain said second data field;

(b3) decoding said second data field to obtain said second data value.

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51.   (original) The method of claim 50 wherein said first bit depth is larger than said second bit depth.

Claims 52-56 (cancelled)